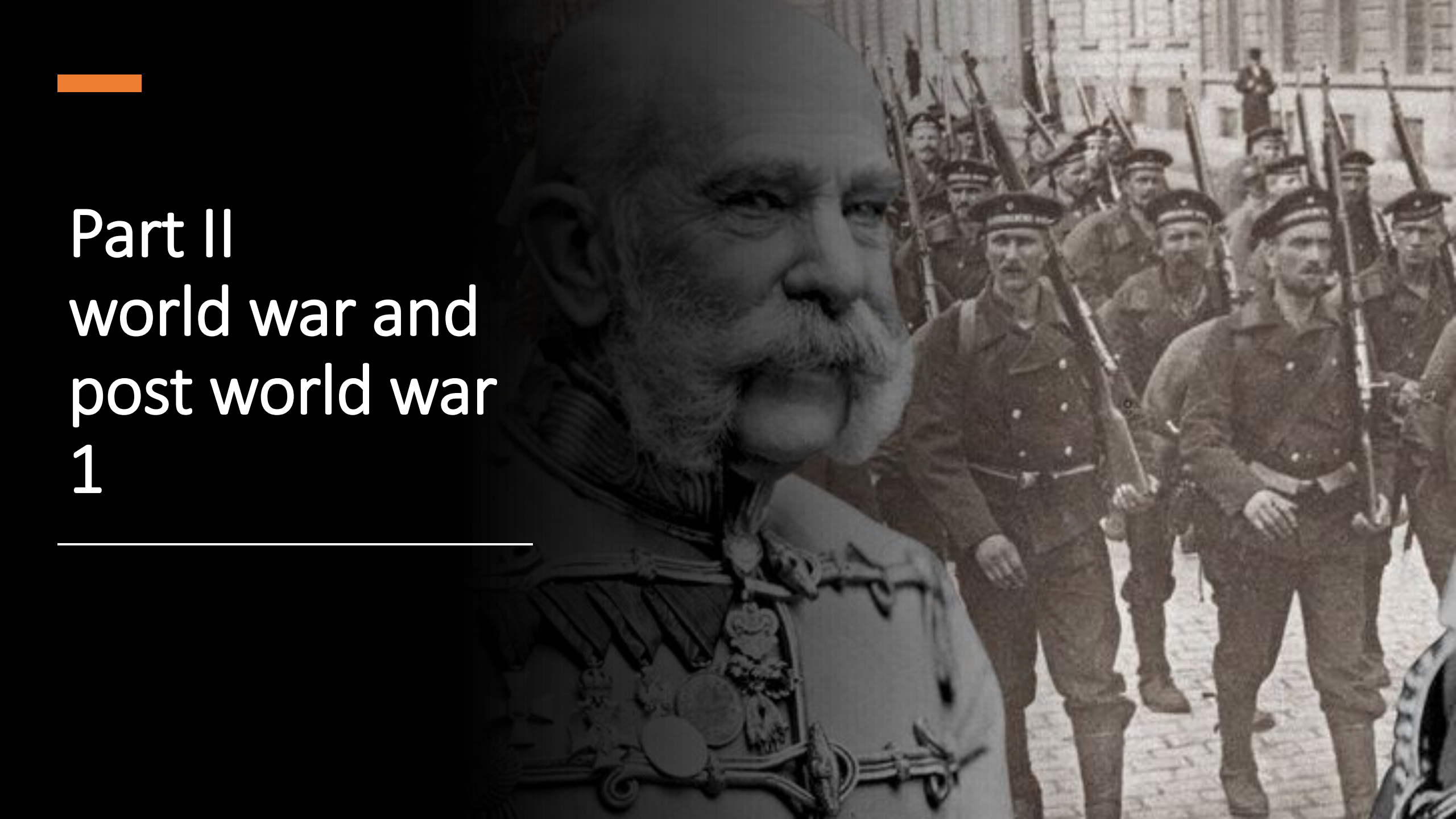
Part II
world war and post world war 1



Norway
Sweden
Denmark
United Kingdom
Netherlands
Germany
Russia
Belgium
Luxemburg
Austria-Hungary
France
Switzerland
Romania
joined 1915
Serbia
Montenegro
Bulgaria
joined 1915
Italy
joined 1915
Albania
Spain
Portugal
Greece
joined 1917
Turkey
Triple Entente
Central Powers
Neutral
Algeria
Tunisia

Causes of the World War

1. System of secret alliances: Germany+Austria+Hungry+italy
2. Militarism
3. Narrow nationalism or competitive patriotism.
4. Economic imperialism
5. Poisoning of the public opinion by the newspapers.
6. The character of William II.
7. French desire to get back Alsace-Lorraine

Atlantic Ocean
U.K.
North Sea
English Channel
BELG.
GERMANY
LUX.
Alsace-Lorraine
Bay of Biscay
FRANCE
SWITZ.
ITALY
SPAIN
Mediterranean Sea

Causes of the World War

7. No machinery to control international relations
8. No power to enforce a code. of international law and morality
9. Italians' desire to recover the Trentino: Italy wanted to get this back from Austria Hungry
10. Near-Eastern Problem: the issue of Balkan states
11. Provinces of Bosnia and Herzegovina: congress fi Berlin gave these two provinces to Austria hungry. They annexed them, and as a result Serbia protested
12. Immediate cause.

THE ESCALATION

- localized war between Austria and Serbia > web of alliances and military mobilization schedules. Indeed, Austria foolishly expected that support from Germany would keep Russia (and others) out of the conflict.
- But the Austrian ultimatum against Serbia prompted Russia to mobilize its military, hoping this show of resolution would force Austria to back down.
- Germany demanded that the Russians halt their mobilization
- German plan>two-front war (because of Russia's alliance with France) called for German troops first to be deployed against France > toward the Russians.
- On August 1, Germany declared war on Russia> two days later, Germany declared war on France> within days of that, German troops advanced toward neutral Belgium. Thus bringing England into the fight.
- The incident in the Balkans had become a Europewide war, with the Central powers of Germany and Austria confronting the Allies of England, France, and Russia.

Map 9.1. Europe 1919

Effects of the war on the Home Front.

1. Women's service contribution.
2. Representation of the People Act, June 1918 A.D: gave women at the age of 31 and men at the age of 21.
3. Government control on industry and labor

i. Male conscription. 18-31 must join army
ii. Uplift of trade unions
iii. Food shortage and its remedy
iv. Timing of public houses was reduced

Effects of the war on the Home Front.

4. Education Act of 1918 A.
    a. raised the age of school leaving to 14
    b. uniform salaries
4. Fall of Liberal Party.
5. Rise of Labor Party.
6. Repercussions in Ireland
7. Economic effects.

The Peace Settlement

- A peace Conference met at Versailles in January 1919 A.D. to decide what should be done with the defeated powers.
- The three most important people at the conference turned out to be Lloyd George of Britain, Clemenceau of France, and Woodrow Wilson of the U.S.A, Britain's war aims had been vague at the outset.
- The public was told that the intention was to defend Belgium.

The Peace Settlement

In January 1918 A.D., Lloyd George spelt Britain's war aims in more detail which was as follows:

1. The defence of democracy.
2. The righting of the injustice done to France in 1871 A.D. ,i.e. the Germans had taken Alsace and Lorraine from France
3. The restoration of Belgium and Serbia
4. An independent Poland.
5. Democratic Self-government for the nationalities of Austria Hungary
6. Self-determination for the German colonies.
7. An international organization to prevent war.

Lloyd George, at the conference, argued that a lenient approach to Germany was essential so that she would not become embittered and so that international trade could settle down to normal again.

NORTH SEA
To Denmark
To Lithuania
BRITAIN
GERMANY
To Poland
RUSSI
To Belgium
To Czechoslovakia
To France
FRANCE
AUSTRIA-
HUNGARY

Treaty of Versailles, Article 231

'...Germany accepts responsibility...for causing all damage and destruction to which the Allied and Associated Governments have been subjected as a consequence of the war imposed upon them by the aggression of Germany and her allies.'

The Peace Settlement

1. Treaty of Versailles dealt with Germany, 1919 A.D. : Alsaic Lorraine to France, Germany's colonies were taken away, war indemnity of 14 billion dollars.
2. Treaty of St. Germaine, 1919 A.D. : Austria-Hungry and allies> complete independence of Hungry> Austria was reduced to a small country
3. Treaty of Trianon: Hungry and Allies> army was reduced> territory was taken away
4. Treaty of Neuilly, 1919 A.D> dealt with the issue of Bulgaria
5. Treaty of Sevres, 1920 A.D.> Turkey and allies
6. Poland.

ARMENIA
TURKEY
SYRIA
LEBANON
IRAQ
PERSIA
PALESTINE
TRANSJORDAN
RITISH
EGYPT
KINGDOM OF
THE HEJAZ

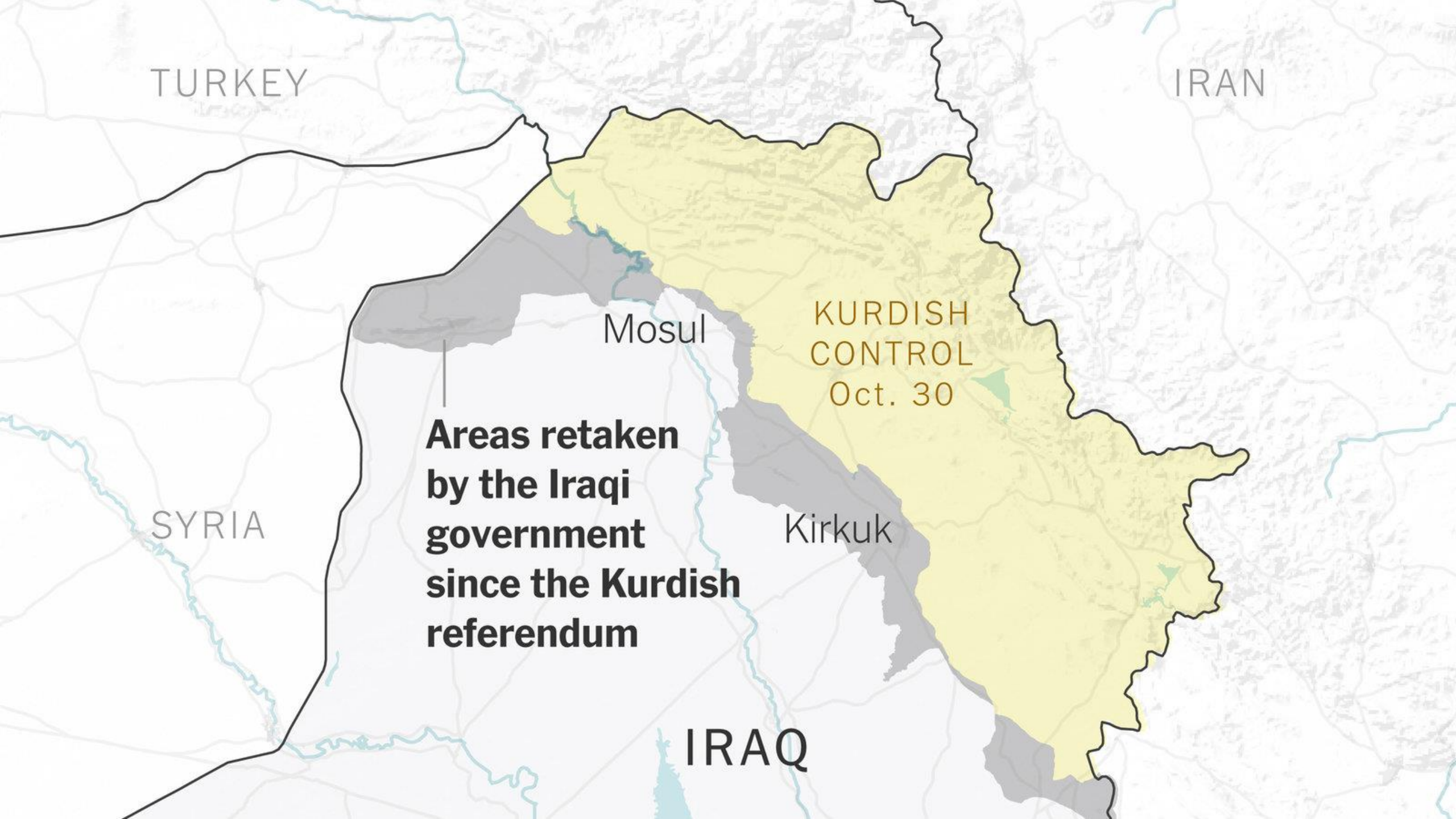
League of Nations

- An organization for international cooperation established on January 10, 1920, at the initiative of the victorious Allied powers at the end of World War I.
- The terrible losses of World War I produced, as years went by and peace seemed no nearer
- An ever-growing public demand that some method is found to prevent the renewal of the suffering and destruction which were now seen to be an inescapable part of modern war.
- Although the League was unable to fulfil the hopes of its founders, its creation was an event of decisive importance in the history of international relations.
- The League was formally disbanded on April 19, 1946; its powers and functions had been transferred **to the nascent United Nations.**

The Structure of the League of Nations

Work of the League of Nations.

1. Aaland Islands: lie between Sweden and Finland> Russia ruled over them till 1917> Finland declared independence> many inhabitants were Swedish> council gave its decision in 1921>neutrality assured
2. Mosul Boundary Dispute: boundary issue between Turkey and GB> Mosul, an oil-rich > council, gave the right to Turkey.
3. Disputes between Bolivia and Paraguay
4. Eupen and Malamed: Belgium> Germany protested > no result
5. Dispute between Britain and France> nationality decrees by France in Tunis and Morocco
6. Disputes between Greece and Bulgaria.


TURKEY
IRAN
Mosul
KURDISH
CONTROL
Oct. 30
Areas retaken
by the Iraqi
government
since the Kurdish
referendum
SYRIA
Kirkuk
IRAQ

Causes of the failure of the league of Nations.

1. Lack of universality
2. Clause of unanimity.
3. No revision of the treaties
4. No principle of collective security
5. Rise of dictatorship in Italy, Japan and Germany
6. No participation of the people of world
7. Covenant of the League was based on Treaty of Versailles
8. Domination of England or France on the League
9. Imposition of economic sanctions against Italy.

Winston Churchill

The wartime Prime Minister

Where was Churchill born?

Winston was born on 30 November 1874, in Blenheim Palace near Oxford.

Blenheim is a great house built in the 1700s for John Churchill. He was Duke of Marlborough and a famous soldier. He was Winston's ancestor. Winston's mother was visiting Blenheim when her baby was born.

Wartime leader

Winston Churchill was Britain's prime minister for most of World War II. He was famous for his speeches, and for his refusal to give in, even when things were going badly. For a time he was the most famous person in Britain. People all over the world know the name Winston Churchill.

Where did he live?

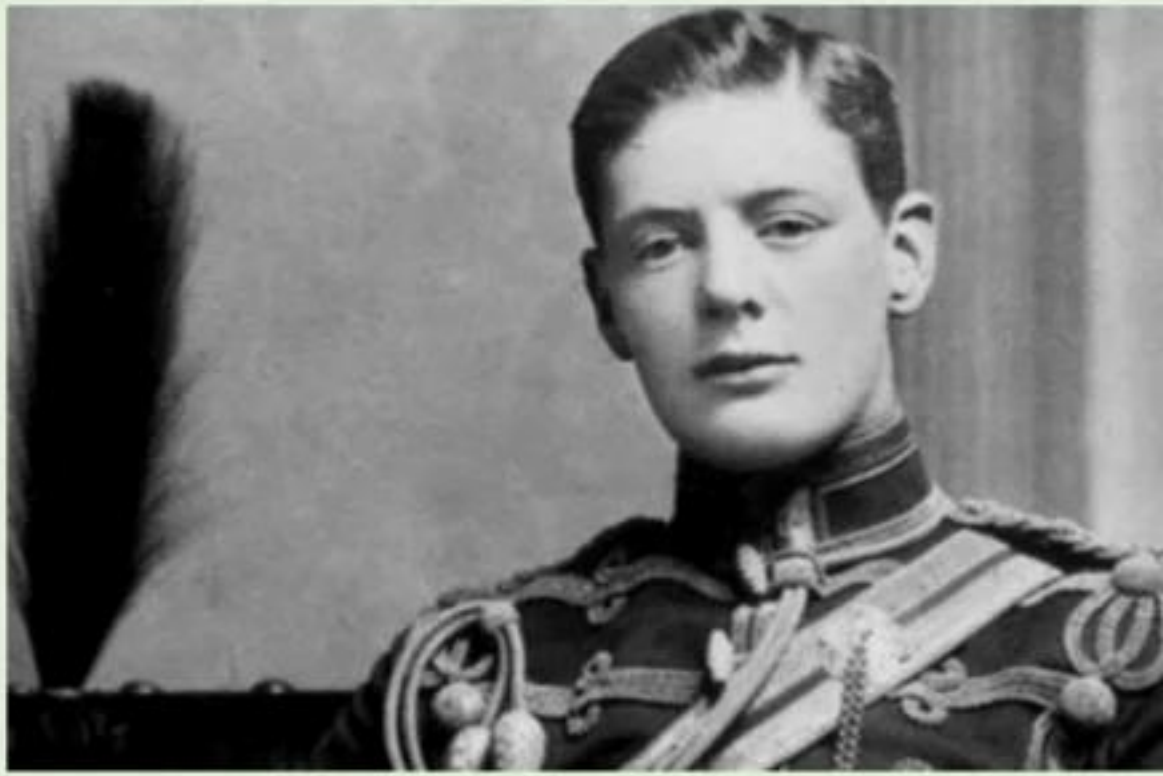
Churchill was born in 1874. He lived through two world wars. He saw the first cars, the first planes, and the first astronauts in space. He was at the crowning of Elizabeth II as Queen in 1953. He was an MP for over 60 years. Winston Churchill died in 1965.

Schooling

At 7, Winston was sent away to school. He hated it. He was beaten (hit) by his teacher, and never got enough to eat.

He liked his next school. It was by the sea. He learned to swim and ride horses.

Joining the army



In 1893, Winston went to the Army college at Sandhurst. He wanted to be a soldier in the cavalry.

1895 was a sad year. His father died. So did his nurse.

Winston went to America and Cuba. He started writing for newspapers about his adventures.

Army Adventures

In 1896 Churchill was sent to India, which was then part of the British Empire.

Winston knew many important people. He asked the prime minister to help him fight in a war in the Sudan, in Africa. In 1898 he rode with the cavalry at the Battle of Omdurman.

South Africa

Next, he went as a newspaper reporter to South Africa. There, the British Army was fighting the Boers.

Winston was captured by the Boers, but escaped. He climbed out of a window, then hid on a train.

He came home a hero. In 1900, he was elected as an MP.

In 1908, Winston married Clementine Hozier.

Running the Navy

Soon Winston was in the government.

By 1910, he was Home Secretary. In 1911 he took charge of the Royal Navy. At this time, Britain had the world's biggest navy.

War

In 1914, World War I began. Churchill wanted the Navy to win battles. But in 1915 his plan for an attack on Turkey went badly wrong. Many British, Australian and New Zealand soldiers died. Churchill resigned. He went to fight in France as a soldier.

By 1917 he was back in the government. He was in charge of new weapons. He was excited by the new tanks. Tanks helped win the war by 1918.

The 1920's for Churchill

In the 1920s Churchill bought Chartwell, a house in Kent. He and his wife had five children. He wrote books to earn extra money.

In 1924, he was made Chancellor of the Exchequer. He was in charge of the country's money and taxes. He was not a success. He left this job in 1929.

The 1930's and Hitler

In the 1930s, Churchill said Britain must get ready for a new war. Germany's leader Adolf Hitler was a danger to peace. But he was not in the government, so people took little notice of his warnings.

War again

In 1939, Germany attacked Poland. Britain and France went to war with Germany. World War II began.

Churchill was put in charge of the Navy again. But the war went badly. By 1940, France was beaten. Britain faced invasion.

Britain needed a new leader. In May 1940, Winston Churchill became Prime Minister.

Britain at war

Britain still had friends. The British Empire sent help. People from the Caribbean, Africa, India, Canada, Australia and New Zealand left home to fight alongside Britain.

Churchill used radio to tell the world Britain was not beaten. His speeches helped keep up people's spirits.

'We shall never surrender' he told Parliament.

Spirit Keeping

Churchill led Britain through the Battle of Britain and the Blitz. He walked through towns damaged by bombs. He met pilots, sailors and soldiers. He visited factories. Everywhere he went he gave the 'V for Victory' sign.

The big three

From 1941, America was in the war. So was Russia. Britain, America and Russia were now Allies.

Churchill became a friend of America's President Roosevelt. He met Russia's leader, Josef Stalin. The three leaders were called 'the Big Three'.

The war ends

On D-Day (6 June) 1944, the Allies landed armies in France. Churchill wanted to go too, but had to wait until it was safer.

The war in Europe ended in May 1945. Crowds cheered Churchill. He stood with the King and Queen.

Britain had an election. The Conservative Party lost. The Labour Party won. Churchill (a Conservative) gave up being Prime Minister.

By August 1945 World War II was over.

Sir Winston

In 1953, Elizabeth II was crowned Queen. Churchill became Sir Winston Churchill. He was given the Nobel Prize for Literature, for his history books.

In 1955, he gave up being prime minister. But he was an MP until 1964. Though old and often not well, he still enjoyed painting pictures.

Churchill dies

Churchill died on 24 January 1965. Many world leaders came to his state funeral. Crowds lined the streets.

Many famous British people are buried in Westminster Abbey or St Paul's Cathedral. But Churchill's grave is in a country churchyard near Oxford.

World War II

Causes of World War II

1. Treaty of Versailles created a bitter peace
2. World-Wide Depression
3. Rise of Totalitarianism
4. Weakness of the League of Nations (Appeasement)

Treaty of Versailles and the Bitter Peace

- The Treaty of Versailles blamed the War on the Germans – creating hardship and humiliation for the German people.
- The reparations payments to the Allies created severe economic problems for Germany, made worse by the World-Wide Depression.
- Humiliation, along with Rampant inflation and terrible unemployment, left the German people completely dissatisfied with their democratic government (The Weimar Republic)

Worldwide Economic Depression

- The Worldwide Economic Depression caused Democratic governments (such as that in Germany and Italy) to fail, and in their place, totalitarian governments rose, promising to end the economic problems (or at least the totalitarians provided a good scapegoat).
- In Germany Hitler joined and manipulated the “National Socialist Workers’ Party” (which was not socialist), preaching a doctrine of German ethnic supremacy and victimization.
- In Italy the depression bred civil unrest between fascists on one side and communists and socialists on the other. Mussolini was named leader by the king and ruled with an iron fist.

In a Totalitarian country, individual rights are not viewed as important as the needs of the nation.

TOTALITARIANISM

USSR

Communist Dictatorship

GERMANY

Fascist Dictatorship

ITALY

Fascist Dictatorship

What did Hitler want?

- To rebuild his army, navy, and air force.
- The return of all German-speaking lands (***Anschluss***) : Austria, The Sudentenland (Western Czechoslovakia).
- ***Lebensraum*** ("living space"): The policy of *Lebensraum* assumed the superiority of Germans as members of an "Aryan master race" who, because of their superiority, had the right to displace people deemed to be part of inferior races.
- The Nazis insisted that Lebensraum needed to be developed as racially *homogenous* to avoid intermixing with peoples deemed to be part of inferior races.
- Peoples deemed to be part of inferior races living within territory selected to be *Lebensraum* were subject to expulsion and/or destruction.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AnpTWKKWQ1o

Weakness of the League of Nations

- The League had no standing army, thus no way to enforce international will.
- Because of WWI, and especially during the Depression, the member nations lacked the desire to go to war for any reason
- Appeasement: The other nations tried to give Germany (and, to some degree, Italy) some of what they wanted so that the war would not happen.
- Thus, at The Munich Conference (Sept 1938), France, GB (and Italy) allowed Germany to take the Sudetenland…annexation of Austria had already happened in March 1938, with no objection by the League.

EUROPE
GERMAN AGGRESSIONS, 1936–1939
SCALE OF MILES
2
NORWAY
SWEDEN
FINLAND
Oslo
Stockholm
Leningrad
GULF OF BOTHNIA
GULF OF FINLAND
LAKE ONEGA
LAKE LADOGA
ESTONIA
LATVIA
LITHUANIA
Riga
Memel
MEMEL March 1939
Moscow
NO. IRELAND
IRISH FREE STATE
GREAT BRITAIN
NORTH SEA
DENMARK
Copenhagen
BALTIC SEA
Kovno
Free City Danzig
EAST PRUSSIA
Hamburg
Berlin
London
NETH.
BELGIUM
GERMANY
SUDETENLAND September 1938
Warsaw
POLAND
U. S. S. R.
Pinsk
Kiev
Prague
March 1939
CZECHOSLOVAKIA
Paris
RHINELAND March 1936
SAAR
FRANCE
Munich
Vienna
AUSTRIA March 1938
Budapest
HUNGARY
BESSARABIA
Odessa
SWITZERLAND
RUMANIA
Fiume
YUGOSLAVIA
Bucharest
Belgrade
BLACK SEA
Lisbon
PORTUGAL
SPAIN
Madrid
CORSICA
ELBA
Rome
ITALY
BULGARIA
Sophia
ALBANIA
Constantinople
SARDINIA
GREECE
TURKEY
SICILY
MALTA (BR)
CRETE
RHODES
CYPRUS
AFRICA
ATLANTIC OCEAN
BAY OF BISCAY
ENGLISH CHANNEL
MEDITERRANEAN SEA
Seine R.
Loire R.
Rhone R.
Rhine R.
Danube R.
Elbe R.
Oder R.
Vistula R.
Dvina R.
Niemen R.
Pripet R.
Dnieper R.
Bug R.
Dniester R.

Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact

- August 23, 1939: A Non-Aggression Pact was signed between Germany and the USSR. It assured a non-involvement of the Soviet Union in a European War (for 10 years – will be broken by Germany in June 1941).
- Secretly, the USSR and Germany also agreed to split Poland.
- What did each side stand to gain?
- Germany invaded Poland on September 1, 1939.
- Soviets Stood by and watched, then moved into its sphere of influence on Sept. 17.
- Great Britain and France declared War on Germany on Sept. 3, and World War II had begun.

The Major Battles of the Second World War

Pacific Theatre

European Theatre

The European Theater : Hitler On the Offensive, in 1940:

1. **Poland**

- Sept. 1, 1939 – October 6, 1939; GB and France declare war

1. **Denmark and Norway** – April 9, 1940 (took less than a week)

   (Winston Churchill Replaces Chamberlain as British Prime Minister on May 10)

1. **The Netherlands and Belgium** – May 10 (took 5 days)
   - ***Miracle At Dunkirk: May 26- June 4: 338,000 British troops evacuated;***
   - ***June 10 – Italy enters the War***
2. **France**- June 5 (took 11 days); France divided into Occupied N/W France and **Vichy France** in SE France
3. **Blitzkrieg** ("Lightning War")

- New form of fighting that allowed Germany to capture lots of territories quickly. Combined arms tactic…all-motorized force concentration of tanks, infantry, artillery, combat engineers and air power, concentrating overwhelming force at high speed.

Winston Churchill

Prime Minister of Great Britain and starting May 1940, and leading Great Britain through the War, and in particular, her darkest hours of the Battle of Britain

The European Theater

- The USSR suffered several terrible defeats after the Germans invaded in June 1941.
- The German army besieged Leningrad in 1941 (a siege that lasted for three years) and Stalingrad in 1942.
- From the moment that the US entered the war, Stalin begged for a second, Western front to take some of the pressure on the Soviet Union.
- The Allies (GB and US) decided instead to take on:
  1. Germans' U-boats in the Atlantic - success by mid-1943
  2. German and Italian forces in North Africa -Eisenhower and Patton led Allied forces to a win over Erwin Rommel's forces in May, 1943

  3) an Invasion of Italy, starting in Sicily in July, 1943 - Italy officially surrendered in Sept., 1943, but fighting continued in Italy, with the Germans fighting the Allies in Italy into 1945.

D-Day June 6, 1944

- D-Day is the name given to the landing of 160,000 Allied troops (using 11,000 planes and 4,400 landing craft and ships, and 448,000 tons of ammunition) in Normandy, France, on June 6, 1944.
- D-Day, the first day of the Invasion of France ("Operation Overlord,"), involved five separate landings by American, British, and Canadian troops and was commanded by General Eisenhower.
- Stiff German resistance resulted in nearly 10,000 Allied casualties, but the Germans were ultimately unable to repel the Allied forces.

D-Day June 6, 1944

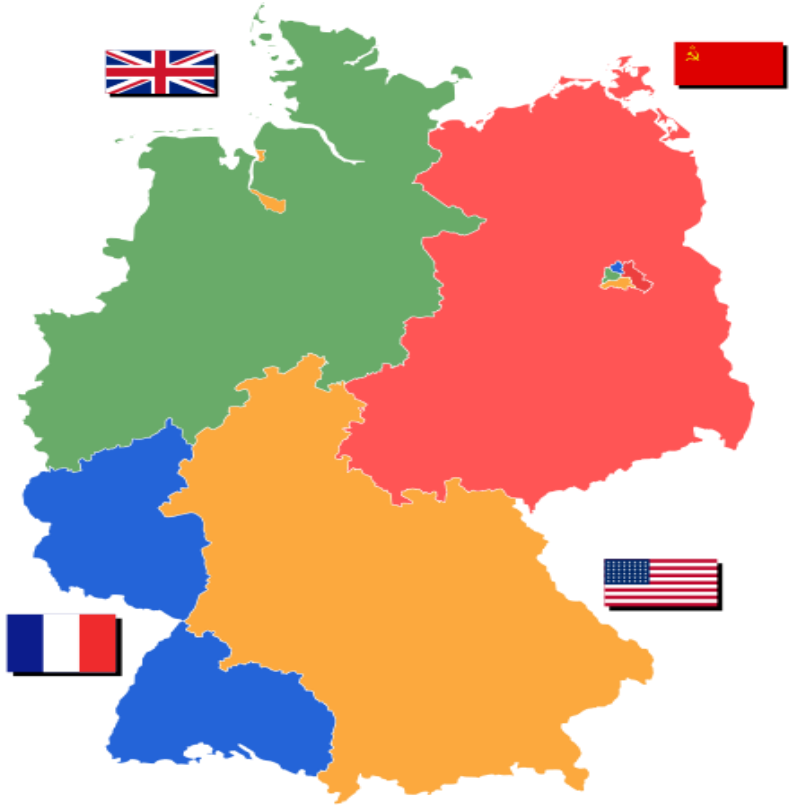
- While the Allies advanced on Western Germany and northward up the Italian Peninsula, the Soviet Army marched on the Eastern German border.
- On April 28, 1945, Mussolini was captured and executed.
- Hitler took his own life on April 30.
- The Soviet Army captured Berlin on May 2.
- FDR died on April 12, and Harry S. Truman would have to see the US through the rest of the war.
- Germany formally surrendered on May 7, 1945 - (“V-E Day”).
- When Japan surrendered on August 15, 1945, the war was over (“V-J Day”).

The End of the Second World War

Yalta Conference

- FDR, Stalin, and Churchill met (in USSR) in February, 1945
- They decided how they would split up the Post WWII Europe and the world.
- Red Army would continue to occupy Eastern Europe, but would hold “free elections” asap.
- Decided to divide Germany into four zones of occupation. British, French, American, and Soviet Zone
- FDR got Stalin’s pledge to help in Japan (joined US on August 8…thanks)
- UN would be formed.

GERMAN OCCUPATION ZONES



Germany eventually splits between Communist East Germany and Non- Communist West Germany

The New World Order: The UN

- April, 1945 - delegates from 50 nations met in San Francisco to discuss creating the UN; Charter ratified in October, 1945.
- All nations sat in the General Assembly but the five major WW2 Allies (US, USSR, Britain, France, & China) sat as permanent members on the leadership Security Council, with 10 other rotating members on the Council.
- United Nations was established to maintain international peace and promote cooperation in solving international economic, social, and humanitarian problems

The Iron Curtain Fell Over Eastern Europe: 1946-1948

- (Shockingly) Stalin went back on his Yalta Conference promises for truly free elections in Eastern Europe.
- Instead, the elections were manipulated by the Soviets, who brought communist dictators to power in the nations of central and Eastern Europe, which became Satellite states of the Soviet Union. (Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, Albania, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Eastern Germany).
- Churchill's "Iron Curtain Speech" (March, 1946) "An Iron Curtain has descended across the continent…") called for a partnership of western democracies to halt the further expansion of Communism -
- How did this speech help fuel the Cold War?

The Truman Doctrine: March 1947

In response to

1. **a communist uprising against the government in Greece and**
2. **to Soviet demands for some control over the Turkish Straits, President Truman promised that "it must be the policy of the United States to support free people who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures."**

- **Without directly calling out the Soviet Union or communism, Truman promised aid to nations struggling against communist movements (from within or from outside), wherever they may occur. The idea behind the Truman Doctrine was containment.**

THE ONSET OF THE COLD WAR

- Issue of Greece and Turkey and Britain's failure to contain the influence of Russia compelled the US to lead
- This pledge to assist democracy everywhere, known as the Truman Doctrine, marked a sharp departure from traditional American isolationism and was a virtual declaration of leadership of the free world.
- At the end of the war, Germany had been divided into four occupation zones (U.S., Soviet, British, and French) jointly administered by an Allied Control Commission. The capital city of Berlin, deep inside the Soviet zone, was also divided into four zones.

Conflicting Postwar Goals

THE ONSET OF THE COLD WAR

- Truman resorted to an airlift of supplies to the three million residents of West Berlin. The Berlin airlift lasted almost a year, with one plane landing in West Berlin every minute until Moscow finally lifted the blockade.
- But, by then, Europe was firmly divided. In 1949, elections in West Germany were held to constitute the Federal Republic of Germany, and a few months later, the Soviets set up their own state in East Germany, which they called the German Democratic Republic.
- in 1947, the United States launched the Marshall Plan, which provided $17 billion for the reconstruction of Europe over five years. In 1949, the United States sponsored the creation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), which guaranteed U.S. military protection for Western European countries under attack

Map 12.1. NATO and the Warsaw Pact in 1955

Truman Doctrine

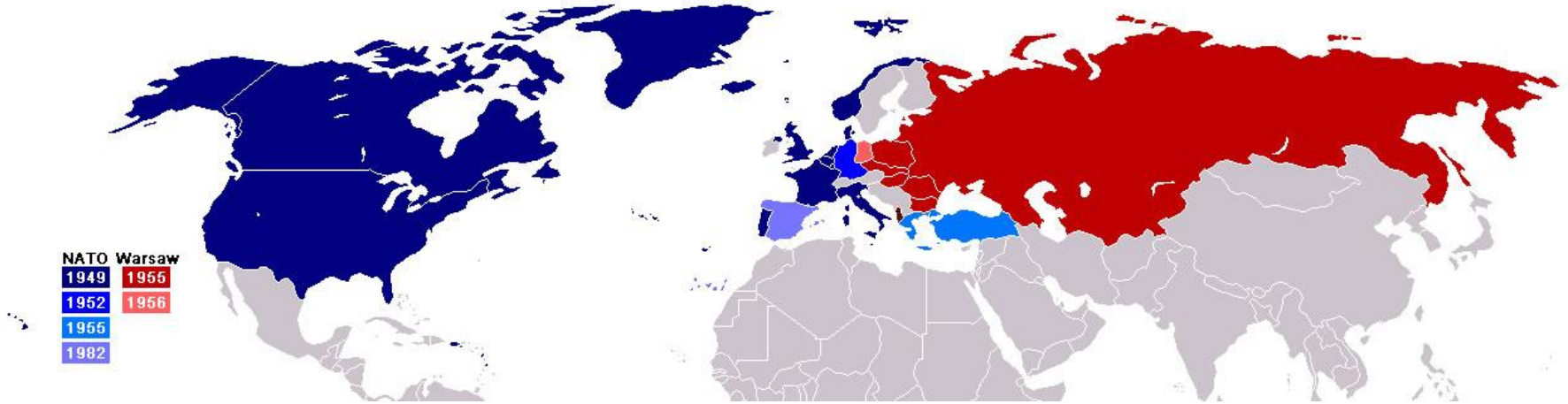
- Asked Congress (and got) $400 million in aid to assist the “free people” of Greece and Turkey against “totalitarian” communist movements.
- **Containment:** the Cold War policy of the United States and its allies to prevent the spread of communism abroad
- After WWII, Europe lay in ruins, short of food, and deep in debt.
- The 1948 Marshall Plan: gave $12 billion in aid to the countries of Western Europe.

Crisis 1:The Berlin Airlift

- June, 1948 – May, 1949
- Stalin blockaded West Berlin and cut off all land access (and supplies) to the German city
- For 11 months, day after day, The US flew planes and all the needed supplies into West Berlin
- Stalin decided not to challenge the airlift, and the Soviets finally reopened the highways to Berlin (and the world breathed a sigh of relief).

NATO and the Warsaw Pact

- **NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization - April, 1949)- Ten European countries, plus the US and Canada, prevent Soviet expansion to and protect Western Europe**
- **Warsaw Pact: Communist military alliance formed in response to NATO to defend Eastern Europe (1955) Further divided the world into "East" and "West".**



The U.S. Containment Policy in Asia

- Just when America believed its containment policy had checked the spread of Communism in Europe, China – the world's most populous nation – adopted Communism
- This raised a new question: Could American leaders check the spread of Communism, not only in Europe, but around the globe?
- Since the 1920s, Chinese Communists had sought to overthrow the Nationalist government in China They were helped by the Soviets after 1945 Led by Mao Zedong, they finally defeated the Nationalists in 1949

The Cuban Missiles Crisis, 1962

- The Cuba got involved in the Cold War when US broke off its diplomatic relations with Cuba in 1961, and Soviet Union increased their economic aid to Cuba.
- In 1961, the USA planned Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba, intending to overthrow the head of Cuban state (Fidel Castro), who was backed by the Soviet Union . However, the operation failed.
- Fidel Castro then appealed to the Soviet Union for military help, to which Soviet Union decided to set up a nuclear missile launchers in Cuba aimed at the USA.
- Cuban Missile Crisis, brought two superpowers on the brink of a nuclear war. However, the crisis was averted diplomatically.

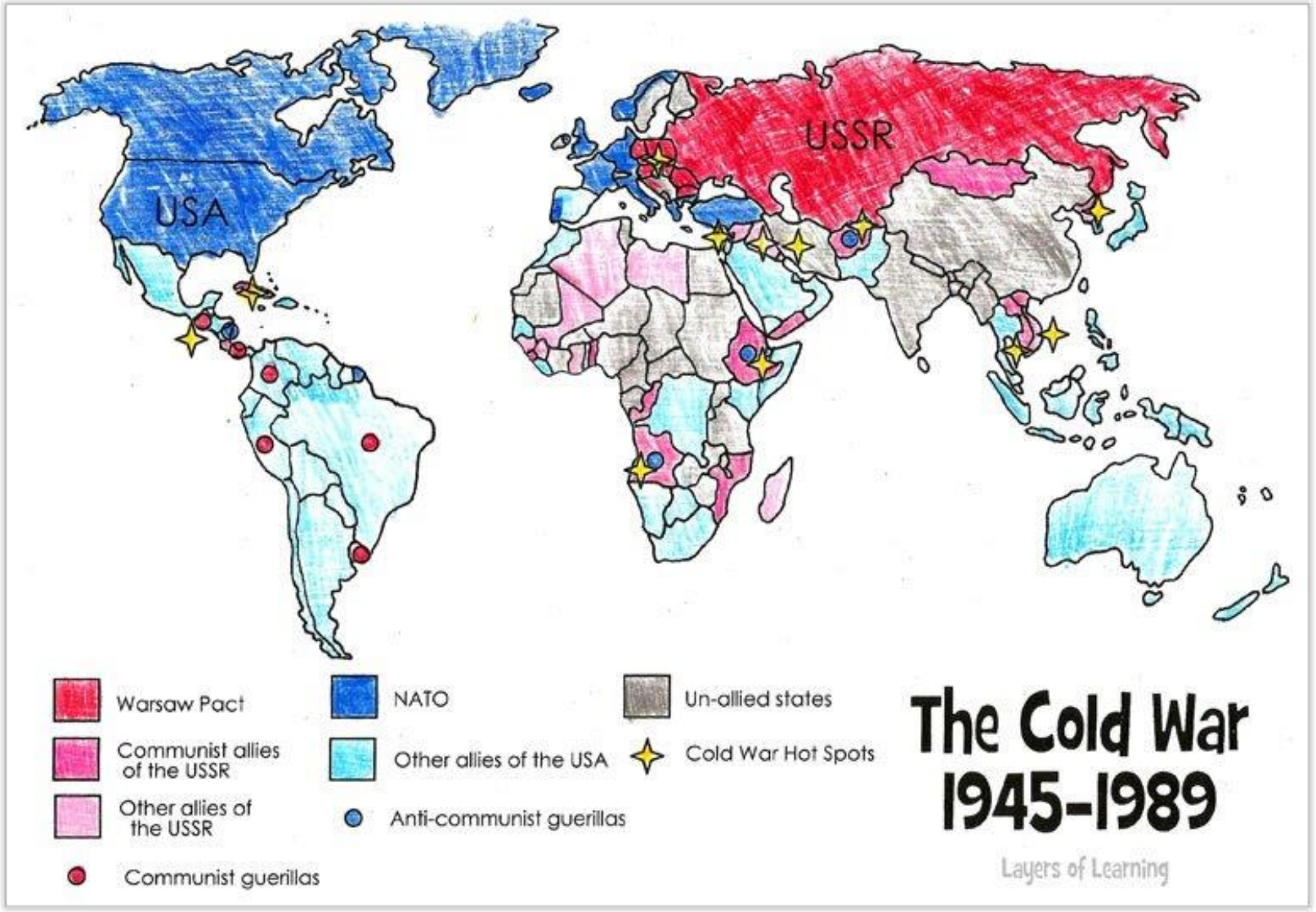
The Korean War and the Vietnam War

- In Asia, the policy of containment became the basis for U.S. involvement in the Korean and Vietnam wars
- In 1950, Communist North Korea invaded South Korea, starting the Korean War
- President Truman came to the aid of South Korea and sent U.S. forces into the conflict
- In 1954, Vietnam in Southeast Asia was divided into two: North Vietnam came under Communist control, while South Vietnam had the support of the West
- When South Vietnamese leaders opposed elections to re-unify the country, the Vietcong launched a guerilla war to control the country, leading to the Vietnam War

The Korean War and the Vietnam War

Fig. 4: Cold War Alignment

Pro-Western


USA
USSR
Warsaw Pact
NATO
Un-allied states
Communist allies of the USSR
Other allies of the USA
Cold War Hot Spots
Other allies of the USSR
Anti-communist guerillas
Communist guerillas
The Cold War 1945-1989
Layers of Learning

End of the Cold War

- In 1991, the Soviet Union collapsed due to multiple factors, which marked the end of the Cold War, as one of the superpowers was weakened.

Reasons for the collapse of the Soviet Union

- **Military reasons:** The space race and the arms race drained a considerable proportion of the Soviet Union's resources for military needs.

Policies of Mikhail Gorbachev

- In order to kick start the moribund Soviet economy, Gorbachev instituted the policies of glasnost (“openness”) and perestroika (“restructuring”).
- Glasnost was intended for liberalization of the political landscape.
- Perestroika intended to introduce quasi-free market policies in place of government-run industries.
- It allowed more independent actions from various ministries and introduced many market-like reforms.

End of the Cold War

- Rather than sparking a renaissance in Communist thought, these steps opened the floodgates to criticism of the entire Soviet apparatus.
- The state lost control of both the media and the public sphere, and democratic reform movements gained steam throughout the Soviet Union.
- Also, there was growing disenchantment in the public due to falling economy, poverty, unemployment, etc. This made the people of the Soviet Union attracted to western ideology and way of life.
- Afghanistan War
- The Soviet-Afghan (1979–89) was another key factor in the breakup of the Soviet Union, as it drained the economic and military resources of Soviet Union.

Conclusion

- The end of the Cold War marked the victory of the US and the bipolar world order turned into a unipolar.
- However, over the last decade, the position of the US as the world's most powerful state has appeared increasingly unstable.
- The US invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq, non-traditional security threats, global economic instability, the apparent spread of religious fundamentalism, together with the rise of emerging economic powers (like Japan, Australia, India, China etc.) have made the world look more multipolar and has led many to predict the decline of the west and the rise of the rest.